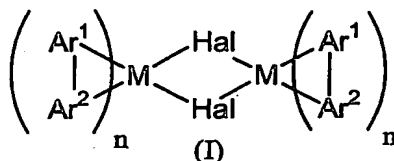


IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1[)]. (Currently Amended) A method of forming a metal complex of formula $M(Ar^1 Ar^2)_n L$ comprising the step of reacting a compound of formula (I) with a bidentate ligand L:



wherein Ar^1 and Ar^2 are each independently an optionally substituted aryl or heteroaryl; Ar^1-Ar^2 forms at least one carbon-M bond by reaction of M with a carbanion of Ar^1-Ar^2 ; L is a compound of formula Ar^1-Ar^2 ; M is iridium, rhodium, platinum or palladium; Hal is a halogen; and n is a number from 1-3 having a value necessary to satisfy the valency of metal M,

~~characterized in that the reaction is performed~~ in the presence of an enabling ligand that is capable of breaking the halogen bridge of the compound of formula (I).

2[)]. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 wherein Hal is bromine, chlorine or iodine, ~~preferably chlorine~~.

3[)]. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any preceding claim 1~~ wherein Ar^1-Ar^2 is phenylpyridine.

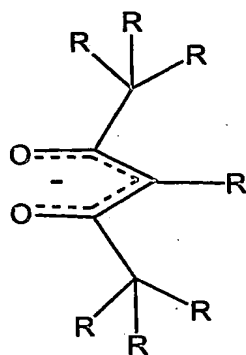
4[)]. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any preceding claim 1~~ wherein Ar^1-Ar^2 and L are the same.

5[]]. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1 wherein Ar^1 - Ar^2 and L are different.

6[]]. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1 wherein the enabling ligand is a monodentate ligand.

7[]]. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 6 wherein the monodentate ligand is selected from the group consisting of optionally substituted pyridine and triarylphosphine.

8[]]. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of claims 1-5~~ claim 1 wherein the enabling ligand is a bidentate ligand of formula (IIb):



(IIb)

wherein each R is independently selected from the group consisting of H ~~or~~ and a substituent.

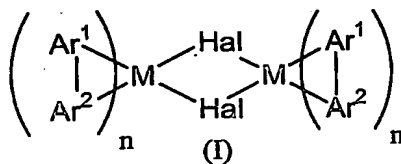
9[)]. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 8 ~~wherein comprising~~
~~forming the ligand of formula (IIb) is formed by treatment of~~ treating a corresponding
 protonated compound with a metal-free base.

10[)]. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 8 ~~or 9~~ wherein each R is
 hydrogen.

11[)]. (Currently Amended) A method of forming a metal complex of formula
 $M(Ar^1Ar^2)_nL$ comprising a first step of preparing a compound of formula (I) by reacting a
 compound of formula $M(Hal)_m$ with a compound of Ar^1-Ar^2 and a second step according to
~~any preceding claim 1~~, wherein m is a number necessary to satisfy the valency of M,
~~characterized in that comprising performing the first and second steps are performed in a one-~~
 pot process.

12[)]. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any preceding claim wherein the~~
1 comprising performing reaction ~~is performed in a protic solvent, preferably ethylene glycol.~~

13[)]. (Currently Amended) A method of forming a metal complex comprising:
 a) a first step of reacting a compound of formula $M(Hal)_m$ with a compound of
 formula Ar^1-Ar^2 to form a compound of formula (I):



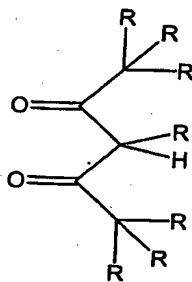
and

b) a second step of reacting the compound of formula (I) with a reactive ligand that is capable of breaking the halogen bridge of the compound of formula (I)

wherein Ar^1 and Ar^2 are each independently an optionally substituted aryl or heteroaryl; $\text{Ar}^1\text{-Ar}^2$ forms at least one carbon-M bond by reaction of M with a carbanion of $\text{Ar}^1\text{-Ar}^2$; L is a compound of formula $\text{Ar}^1\text{-Ar}^2$; M is iridium, rhodium, platinum or palladium; Hal is a halogen; m is a number from 2-8 and n is a number from 1-3, m and n each having a value necessary to satisfy the valency of metal M,

~~characterized in that~~ wherein the first and second steps are performed in a one-pot process.

14[)]. (Currently Amended) A method of forming a metal complex comprising the step of reacting a metal halide with a ligand of formula (II):



(II)

wherein each R is H or a substituent,

~~characterized in that the reaction is performed~~ in the presence of a metal-free base of sufficient strength to deprotonate the compound of formula (II).

15. (New) A method according to claim 1 wherein Hal is chlorine.

16. (New) A method according to claim 9 wherein each R is hydrogen.
17. (New) A method according to claim 12 wherein the protic solvent is ethylene glycol.